

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A contents file play back permission method of permitting a contents file, which has been down loaded from a server to a terminal computer connected to the server through a communication network, to be played back by the playback software installed on the terminal computer, wherein both the playback software and the contents file can incorporate client IDs; the playback software is set such that it permits the playback of the contents file only when the client ID thereof agrees with the client ID incorporated in the contents file; when profile data is transmitted from the terminal computer to the server at the time the playback software is set up, the server transmits a client ID inherent to each playback software to the terminal computer through the communication network so that the client ID is incorporated in the playback software; and, thereafter, when the terminal computer accesses the server, down loads the contents file and stores it therein, the server incorporates the client ID of the destination, to which the contents file is down loaded, in the contents file,

wherein both the playback software and the contents file can incorporate user IDs, in addition to the client IDs, and the playback software is set such that it permits the playback of the contents file only when the client ID and user ID thereof agree with the client ID and user ID

incorporated in the contents file, respectively.

Claim 2 (previously presented) The contents file playback permission method according to claim 1, wherein when the terminal computer accesses the server to down load the contents file, the server acquires the client ID incorporated in playback software of the terminal computer having accessed the server.

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A recording medium that has recorded playback software installed on a terminal computer connected to a server through a communication network and which plays back a contents file down loaded from the server, wherein the playback software incorporates a client ID previously transmitted from the server therein; when the contents file is down loaded, the playback software incorporates the client ID in the contents file before the contents file is played back; and when the playback software plays back the contents file, it compares the client ID incorporated therein with the client ID incorporated in the contents file and plays back the contents file only when, both the client IDs agree with each other,

wherein both the playback software and the contents file can incorporate user IDs, in addition to the client IDs, and the playback software permits the playback of the contents file only when the client ID and the user ID thereof agree with the client ID and the user ID

incorporated in the contents file, respectively.

Claim 5 (canceled) .

Claim 6 (currently amended) The recording medium that has recorded playback software for playing back a contents file according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~, wherein when the contents file is not played back, the recording medium displays a function other than the contents file; and the display is changed to a different display mode according to whether or not a particular contents file is down loaded.

Claim 7 (previously presented) The recording medium that has recorded playback software for playing back a contents file according to claim 6, wherein said function is a clock function.